

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - NEWSLETTER -

Travis F. Doering, Editor

Vol. II, No. 6

October, 1986

- CHOKOLOSKEE ISLAND DIG - On Saturday and Sunday, October 11th & 12th, SWFAS will be conducting an extremely important excavation on Chokoloskee Island. This will be one of the most important projects that we have ever undertaken and your help and support is vital to its success.

- Chokoloskee is one of the oldest, largest and archaeologically most important sites in our area. The entire island is an artificially constructed Indian site. We will be digging in culturally-rich "black" midden soil, and we will attempt to sort all material at the site from a 1½m x 2m pit to a depth of approximately 2-2½m.

- We will be meeting Saturday, October 11th at 7:30 a.m. at the parking lot of the Hammock Restaurant at the juncture of SR92 and US41. We will then go on to meet the contingent from Dade County at 8:00 a.m. at the Visitor's Welcome Station at the juncture of SR29 and US41 in Carnestown. From there we will drive to the site.

- On Sunday, October 12th work will begin at the site between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. On both days we hope to work until about 5:30 p.m. Be sure to bring your own lunch, snacks and drinks as there will be nothing available at or around the site. For more details, information or questions, please call John Beriault at 261-0082 or 261-0295.

- This is a very important dig and we need all the help we can get. If any of your friends have ever expressed interest in archaeology, now is the perfect time to introduce them to it. Please make every effort to be there on October 11th and 12th. Thank you.

- THE OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING of the SWFAS will be held at the First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, (Community Room), 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples, FL at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 16th.

- Our guest speaker will be SWFAS member Lindsey Williams and he will be discussing his book "Boldly Onward", an original narrative of the expeditions of Ponce de Leon-Charlotte Harbor, Panflo Narvaez-Cape Haze, and Hernando de Soto-Tampa. Through the study of maps, descriptions and other evidence, Mr. Williams feels that de Leon landed on Pine Island, de Soto at Charlotte Harbor, and Narvaez in Tampa.

- Lindsey is a columnist for the Charlotte Harbor Daily Herald and comments on a wide variety of subjects including history and archaeology which he has actively studied for many years.

- In the last chapter of his current book, he deals with archaeology and how to look for beads, buried iron, pictographs and so on. Be sure to join us for a very interesting evening discussing early Spanish contact in Gulf Coast Florida.

- SITE FORM MEETING - Tuesday, October 14th at 6:30 p.m. at the Strader residence, 27564 Woodridge, Bonita Springs, FL. (992-6133) New sites and information discussed. Call for further info.

SWFAS

- SORTING SESSION - Tuesday, October 21st at 5:30 p.m. at John Beriault's home, 3550 Bolero Way, Naples. Sort materials from past digs.

- SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING - Our thanks go to SWFAS member Art Lee for his excellent presentation on Homo Erectus Tautavelensis. Art and his wife, Lynn, were part of an excavating team working in the Pyrenees in Southern France on a grotto containing remains of some of the oldest human-types to settle in Europe.

- Thanks, Art, for a really great evening and your award for neatest tent is in the mail.

- SWFAS EXCAVATION AT THE BEACHWALK SITE - Due to the removal of trees by the developer and the involvement of the Collier County Environmental Dept., John Beriault was contacted to investigate the upturned shell. After a walking survey was conducted, permission was granted to SWFAS to do further testing before further disturbance to the area. SWFAS used two full days (Sept. 21 & 22) for field work at the site. Five 1-meter square test pits were completed. The majority of the artifactual material was in a layer between 20-40 cm deep. Sifting and sorting was done on the site. SWFAS "bagged" pot sherds, shell tools, worked shell, charcoal and fawnal material. A 50 cm. sq. column sample was also collected intact for future analysis. Concurrently, Art Lee was in charge of conducting an ambitious series of post hole tests laid out in a grid fashion. This allowed for a better determination of site boundaries and soil lenses. Art also used this opportunity to collect soil samples for phosphate testing. We were fortunate to have a good turnout of hard-working people both days. Besides such regulars as Eleanor Young, Albert Franklin, Sue Longnecker, Gina Understahl, Isabelle Felsberg, Les Ruckle, Doug Messineo, Linda Montgomery, Isabel Waterhouse, John Beriault, Charles Strader, Art & Lynn Lee, Mary Ruth Winchell, Jack Thompson, Keith and Ann Waterhouse and any others whose names we may have missed, a big thank you for your assistance.

- We were happy to see four people from the Sarasota area who are in the process of establishing a new chapter of the FAS.

- Thanks to all for a successful weekend!

Charlie Strader

- WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS - Steve Shostron of Peoria, Illinois and also Douglas McGilvra.

- INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WET SITE ARCHAEOLOGY - December 13&14, 1986 at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

- The purpose of the conference is to examine issues pertaining to archaeological sites located in wetland areas where fragile organic materials have survived because they have been incorporated directly into an oxygen-free, water-saturated deposit.

- Papers will be presented about work conducted in Denmark, England, Germany, Iceland, Switzerland, Newfoundland, Chile, Canada, Washington, Florida and Tahiti.

- A field trip is planned to the Windover site where cultural remains and 8000 year-old human skeletons, some still containing brain tissue within the crania, were recovered from a peat stratum.

- The fee for registration is \$40.00 and includes a cocktail reception, coffee breaks, and the field trip to the Windover site with box lunch. The deadline for registration is November 16, 1986.

- For additional information, contact: Barbara A. Purdy, Dept. of

SWFAS

Anthropology, 1350 Turlington Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611. Telephone (904)392-2031.

- SWFAS LIBRARY - A new catalog has been added to the SWFAS Library, Mickler's Floridiana, Inc. "Books of Florida". Mickler's is a wholesaler of books and other materials pertinent to the State of Florida. This is the 1986-87 catalog containing over 900 titles. For further information on this and other books in the SWFAS Library, contact Charlie Strader at 992-6133.

- FLORIDA CREATES UNDERWATER PRESERVE - (Bonita Banner, 9/10/86) Secretary of State, George Firestone announced the creation of Florida's first underwater archaeological preserve. The Wedge Wreck Underwater Archaeological Preserve is the site of a Spanish plate fleet ship which sunk with twelve other vessels in a 1715 hurricane. The ship has been identified as the Urca de Lima and was returning to Spain with its fleet loaded with treasure.

- The Urca de Lima was thoroughly salvaged for treasure by the Spanish after the hurricane, but continued to yield treasure and artifacts in the following centuries. The shipwreck site became known as the "Wedge Wreck" because of the large number of silver wedges, a common form of bulk storage in the eighteenth century, which were found on the site in the 1960's. Today, all that remains of the shipwreck are portions of its wooden hull, ballast stones, and perhaps some random artifacts overlooked by treasure salvors.

- Firestone and underwater archaeologists from the Div. of Historical Resources placed replica cannons on the wreck site so that they would be covered with marine growth when the preserve opens early next summer. Prior to the official opening, a permanent plaque and marking buoy will be placed underwater and maps and brochures will be distributed to sport diving clubs and dive shops.

- "For over twenty years, Spanish treasure ships have only been accessible to treasure salvors and state Archaeologists. Now it is the diving public's turn to enjoy the wonders of this historic site" said Firestone.

-----

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to: SWFAS, P.O.Box 9965, Naples, FL 33941

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual--\$10.00    \_\_\_\_\_ Family--\$15.00    \_\_\_\_\_ Student--\$7.50    \_\_\_\_\_ Contributing--\$25.00

Yes! I want to support the SWFAS in their work of preserving and interpreting the prehistoric heritage of Southwest Florida.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

INTEREST & HOBBIES \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby agree to abide by the rules and bylaws of the Southwest Florida Archeological Society. I further release from any and all liability due to accident and injury to myself, dependents, and property, the SWFAS, its officers, members, and any property owners cooperating with the Society.

NOTE: All dues and contributions are tax deductible.